NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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For Immediate Release

Owners of Calexico Automobile Dealership Indicted For Money Laundering And Structuring Drug Proceeds

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY – April 14, 2014

SAN DIEGO, CA – Ignacio Gonzalez, an owner of Del Valle Auto Sales in Calexico, California, was charged in an indictment unsealed today with using the car dealership to launder tens of thousands of dollars in illicit drug proceeds and failing to file the required financial reports associated with the vehicle sales.

His wife, Lorena Gonzalez, was also charged with attempting to conceal the illicit nature of the funds by structuring bank deposits in amounts under \$10,000 to avoid triggering certain reporting requirements. Banks that receive more than \$10,000 in cash deposits must file a report of the transaction with the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

According to the indictment, Ignacio Gonzalez knowingly transferred and delivered funds from the sales of vehicles that were "represented by a law enforcement officer to be the proceeds of...drug trafficking." He then failed to file the so-called "Form 8300" as required by law, in connection with the receipt of \$19,420 cash and \$24,500 in cash for the purchase of these vehicles.

The couple was arraigned today in federal court before U.S. Magistrate Judge Karen Crawford. The defendants were each granted a \$25,000 bond and ordered to appear before U.S. District Judge Janis L. Sammartino for a motion hearing on May 23, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 14CR1274

Ignacio Gonzalez Age: 43 Calexico, CA

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Laundering Drug Proceeds, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(3)(C) Maximum Penalties: 20 years in custody; 3 years of supervised release; \$500,00 fine.

Failure to file Form 8300, in violation of Title 31, United States Code, Sections 5322(b), 5324(a)(1) and 5331 Maximum Penalties: 5 years in custody; 2 years of supervised release; \$250,000 fine.

Conspiracy to Violate Structure Currency Deposits, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 and Title 18, United States Code, section 5324(a)(3)

Maximum Penalties:5 years in custody; 2 years of supervised release; \$250,000 fine.

Case Number: 14CR1274

Lorena Gonzalez Age: 37 Calexico, CA

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Conspiracy to Violate Structure Currency Deposits, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 and Title 18, United States Code, section 5324(a)(3)

Maximum Penalties: 5 years in custody; 2 years of supervised release; \$250,000 fine.

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigations

*An Indictment is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.